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15 in JFK plot, Rome paper says

ROME (UPI) — The Rome Newspaper Il Messaggero said Tuesday the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was the work of 15 Cubans and Americans who felt he betrayed the anti-Castro cause by pledging not to invade Cuba.

Lucio Manisco, the newspaper's longtime New York correspondent, said he found evidence in favor of this theory through "a fortuitous series of circumstances, casual meetings in the United States and abroad and a more careful examination of documents not attached to the (Warren) report." He said sme of his information was second-hand.

He said the New York Times, Washington Post and Los Angeles Times were working on the same story and that Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) may ask the White House to reopen the inquest.

MANISCO said this version orginated with Lawrence (Larry)" Truckman, an "American adventurer" who was arrested in Manila in 1972 in connection with an assassination plot against President Ferdinand E. Marcos.

Manisco said Truckman was administered "truth serum" and under its effect told Filipino investigators of his role in the Kennedy assassination nine years earlier.

He said Kennedy was "the victim of a plot by 15 Cuban and American mercenaries, enlisted two years earlier by the Central Intelligence Agency for the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion."

The assassination was prompted by reports that Kennedy pledged to refrain from further invasion of Cuba in return for the withdrawal of Soviet missiles from the Island, Manisco said. He said the group saw this as betrayal of the anti-Castro cause.